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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

09/656,765

09/07/2000

Jeremy S DeBonet

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09/04/2008

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EXAMINER

TODD, GREGORY G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2157

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/04/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/656,765 | Applicant(s) DEBONET ET AL. | |
| | Examiner GREGORY G. TODD | Art Unit 2157 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 38-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/1/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to applicant's amendment and request for continued examination filed 30 July 2008, of application filed, with the above serial number, on 07 September 2000 in which claims 1-37 have been cancelled and claims 38-57 have been added. Claims 38-57 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 54-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The claims are directed to "a computer-usable medium". According to the October 26, 2005 Interim Guidelines for Examining Patent Applications, signal claims are ineligible for patent protection because they do not fall within the four statutory classes of § 101. (See http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/guidelines101_20051026.pdf).

When nonfunctional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable medium, in a computer or on an electromagnetic carrier signal, it is not statutory since no requisite functionality is present to satisfy the practical application requirement. Merely claiming nonfunctional descriptive material, i.e., abstract ideas, stored in a computer-readable medium, in a computer, on an electromagnetic carrier signal does

not make it statutory. (See Diehr, 450 U.S. at 185-86, 209 USPQ at 8 and See also In re Johnson, 589 F.2d 1070, 1077, 200 USPQ 199, 206 (CCPA 1978)).

Page 24 line 6 of the specification identifies the medium to be a transmission medium.

In order to expedite a comprehensive examination of the instant application, the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 (non- statutory) above, are further rejected as set forth below in anticipation of applicant amending these claims to place them within the admissible statutory categories of invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 38-39, 41, 43-46, 48-49, 52-55, and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hitson et al (hereinafter "Hitson", 2002/0010759).

As per Claim 38, Hitson teaches a method for providing a customized broadcast comprising:

maintaining a user profile including information relating to a preference of a user associated with the user profile (at least paragraph 54-55; user registration/ profile/

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preferences);

without selection from a user device, automatically selecting a plurality of broadcast elements comprising a song broadcast element and an advertising broadcast element based on the user profile (at least paragraph 11, 14, 90; advertisements and song/playlists based on user preferences); and

transmitting the plurality of broadcast elements to the user device (at least paragraph 76; eg. listen now stream).

As per Claim 39. The method of claim 38 further comprising maintaining a user listening history comprising a list identifying at least a portion of a plurality of broadcast elements previously transmitted to the user device, and wherein automatically selecting the broadcast elements is based on the user profile and the user listening history (at least paragraph 139, 151; previously transmitted playlist providing feedback, adjusting preferences).

As per Claim 41. The method of claim 38 further comprising modifying the information in the user profile based on the plurality of broadcast elements that are selected automatically (at least paragraph 139, 151; adjusting preferences).

As per Claim 43. The method of claim 38 wherein the user profile includes information indicating a preference of a frequency of selection and transmission of a plurality of types of broadcast elements (at least paragraph 151; restricting frequency).

As per Claim 44. The method of claim 38 wherein the plurality of broadcast elements further comprise a personalized broadcast element that includes a reference to a name of a user associated with the user device (at least paragraph 75-76, 61, 69-70;

username).

As per Claim 45. The method of claim 38 further comprising iteratively repeating without selection from the user device, automatically selecting and transmitting the plurality of broadcast elements to the user device (at least paragraph 44; continuous data stream).

As per Claim 46. The method of claim 38 wherein the plurality of broadcast elements are sequentially transmitted to the user device (at least paragraph 44; stream).

Claims 48-49, 52-55, and 57 do not, in substance, add or define any additional limitations over claims 38-39, 41, and 43-46 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 40, 42, 50, 51, and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitson in view of Rosenberg et al (hereinafter "Rosenberg", 7,028,082).

As per Claim 40, Hitson fails to explicitly teach wherein the plurality of broadcast elements further comprise a weather broadcast element. However, the use and advantages for using such a system is well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by the teachings of Rosenberg. Rosenberg

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teaches a personalized audio channel having personalized information such as weather (at least col. 4:63-5:3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to incorporate the use of Rosenberg's weather information with Hitson as this would enhance Hitson's system as Hitson teaches such content can be audio (at least paragraph 43) and Rosenberg teaches such information being another form of sound recordings, in addition to music, the user wants to hear information related to weather.

As per Claim 42, Hitson fails to explicitly teach without selection from the user device, automatically selecting an alert broadcast element selected from a group consisting of a weather alert broadcast element, a traffic alert broadcast element, and a stock price alert broadcast element based on the user profile; halting transmission of one of the plurality of broadcast elements to the user device prior to completion of the transmission of the one of the plurality of broadcast elements; and transmitting the alert broadcast element to the user device. However, the use and advantages for using such a system is well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by the teachings of Rosenberg. Rosenberg teaches a personalized audio channel having personalized information such as weather, stock quotes, etc (at least col. 4:63-5:3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to incorporate the use of Rosenberg's weather/ stock quotes/ etc information with Hitson as this would enhance Hitson's system as Hitson teaches such content can be audio (at least paragraph 43) and Rosenberg teaches such

information being another form of sound recordings, in addition to music, the user wants to hear and be alerted and informed about.

Claims 50, 51, and 56 do not, in substance, add or define any additional limitations over claims 40 and 42 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

7. Claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitson in view of Mackintosh et al (hereinafter "Mackintosh", 6,317,784).

Hitson fails to explicitly teach wherein automatically selecting the plurality of broadcast elements further comprises selecting a disc jockey introduction broadcast element, and mixing the disc jockey introduction broadcast element with the song broadcast element wherein the song broadcast element includes the disc jockey introduction broadcast element. However, the use and advantages for using such an audio element is well known to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made as evidenced by the teachings of Mackintosh (at least col. 3, lines 1-16). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the use of DJ tracks being incorporated into Hitson's system as Hitson teaches such content can be audio (at least paragraph 43) and DJ commentary is simply another form of audio content to be streamed as well known in the radio broadcast arts.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 38-57 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Newly cited Drosset et al and Herz et al, in addition to previously cited Chen et al (par. 41-43; profile subsystem automatically controlling selector for may element types), Root et al (col. 6:5-18; automatic custom weather service delivery), Bates et al (automatic audio broadcast selection), Cliff (automatic compilation of songs), Rosenberg et al, Srinivasan et al, Lotspiech et al, and Rouchon are cited for disclosing pertinent information related to the claimed invention. Applicants are requested to consider the prior art references for relevant teachings when responding to this office action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GREGORY G. TODD whose telephone number is (571)272-4011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00am-6:00pm w/ first Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571)272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gregory G Todd/
Examiner, Art Unit 2157